



The Daily Whip

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TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
8:30 a.m.: To Prepare for Joint Session 9:10 a.m.: Joint Session to receive His Excellency Hamid Karzai Unlimited "One Minutes"	5:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

The House will meet at 8:30 a.m. and recess immediately to prepare the House Chamber for a Joint Session of Congress. The House will reconvene at 9:10 a.m. in a Joint Meeting with the Senate to receive His Excellency Hamid Karzai, President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

H.Res. 672 - Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4513 and H.R. 4529 (Rep. Reynolds / Rules Committee). Regarding consideration of H.R. 4513, the Rules Committee has recommended a modified closed rule with one hour of general debate; a manager's amendment to be debated for 10 minutes; and one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 2 of the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4529 under a modified closed rule with one hour of general debate; a manager's amendment to be debated for 10 minutes; and one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

H.Res. 671 - Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4503 and H.R. 4517 (Rep. Hastings (WA) / Rules Committee). The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule with no amendments for consideration of H.R. 4503 with one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit. Section 2 of the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4517 under a closed rule and no amendments with one hour of debate and one motion to recommit.

H.R. 4503 - Energy Policy Act of 2004 (Rep. Barton - Energy & Commerce) (Subject to a Rule). This bill contains the provisions of the energy conference report adopted by the House last November (H.R. 6) on a 247 -175 vote, but which failed to gain passage in the Senate due to bipartisan opposition to several controversial provisions the House GOP leadership insisted upon during Conference. H.R. 4503 repeals consumer protection rules, contains controversial environmental provisions and provides \$23.5 billion in tax breaks to energy producers including: \$11.9 billion to encourage oil and gas production; \$2.5 billion for "clean coal" programs; \$2.2 billion in incentives for alternative motor vehicles; and \$1.8 billion for the electric power industry and other businesses. While this bill creates a new electric "reliability" organization and rules, other provisions in the bill may actually deter investment in the transmission grid and regional coordination and planning (a lack of adequate transmission infrastructure and poor coordination are cited as possible causes of the August 2003 blackout). In addition, this bill authorizes \$18 billion in loan guarantees for a natural gas pipeline from Alaska; more than doubles ethanol production over the next decade; provides liability protection for MTBE producers; postpones ozone attainment standards across the country; weakens environmental regulations related to oil and gas drilling and hydroelectric relicensing; and repeals consumer protections and enforcement provisions of the Public Utilities Holding Company Act (PUCHA).

Suspensions (1 bill):

1) H.R. 4545 - Gasoline Price Reduction Act of 2004 (Rep. Blunt - Energy & Commerce)

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H.R. 4513 - Renewable Energy Project Siting Improvement Act of 2004 (Rep. Pombo - Resources) (Subject to a Rule). Under the guise of promoting renewable energy, H.R. 4513 would allow federal agencies to avoid consideration of a full range of alternatives to proposed projects and would curb public review and comment. This bill would amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) by authorizing federal agencies conducting the review of a renewable energy project to only examine the impact of the proposed action and the "no action" alternative, and not the environmental effects of alternative sites. Current law requires federal agencies conducting an environmental review to conduct an analysis of alternatives, which has been an issue in the siting of some wind energy projects, especially offshore projects. No hearing or markup was held on this legislation by the Resources Committee and there is no basis to conclude that NEPA has prevented development of alternative energy. **Democrats are urged to VOTE NO.**

The Rule makes in order the following amendment:

- **Pombo – Manager’s Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment clarifies that the environmental review processes in H.R. 4513 do not apply to oil and gas leasing activities.

TOMORROW’S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. to consider the following bills: **H.R. 4517** - U.S. Refinery Revitalization Act of 2004 (Rep. Barton - Energy & Commerce) (Subject to a Rule); and **H.R. 4529** - Arctic Coastal Plain Domestic Energy Security & Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Reform Act (ANWR) (Rep. Pombo - Resources) (Subject to a Rule). In addition, the House may consider: **H.R. ____** - Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY05 (Rep. Rogers (KY) / Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule); or **H.R. ____** - Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY05 (Rep. Taylor (NC) / Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule).

Daily Quote...

"The package is so weighed down with business favors that it resembles a pork-laden spending bill."

- A news story in *The Wall Street Journal* today on the FSC/ETI bill approved by the Ways and Means Committee on Monday.